

Johnson Believes Federal League Stories Are Fakes

JOHNSON DOESN'T BELIEVE RUMORS

American League Boss Says That Jumping of Tinker and Brown Has Yet to Be Proved to His Satisfaction—Will Do Nothing in Case of Stovall, Who Is Useless.

CHICAGO, Dec. 29.—Ban Johnson, president of the American League, and the most powerful figure in baseball, intimated today that he still believes there is more fact than fiction in the claims of the Federal League, and that he has yet to be satisfied that Joe Tinker and Mordecai Brown, the two National League players, have signed contracts with the outlaws. However, the chief mogul of baseball is not worrying much over the state of affairs facing his organization. He says that it will all work out right in the end.

"The American League will do nothing with George Stovall," said Ban Johnson. "He has ended his usefulness in St. Louis, and I see no reason for going into a fight for a useless player. Tinker and Brown are not American League players, and we shall do nothing with their cases."

"Indeed, I have yet to have it proved to my satisfaction that Tinker and Brown have jumped to the Federal League. We have heard this talk all winter. If they have, it is my opinion that their contracts with the National League should be strong enough to hold them before the courts."

QUITTING NAPLAND SURE TO BE FELT

CLEVELAND, Ohio, Dec. 29.—By giving up their franchise in this city, the Federal League are thought to have let slip a good thing and they will find it a heavy blow before long. Toronto cannot give the support that Cleveland might have. It is admitted that considerable money would be needed for a successful fight against the Naps, but the outlaws will need barrels of money anyway. If they are to succeed as a "third big league," last season the Federals had a diamond at Luna Park. This was too far away from the center of the city and the crowds were small. The team was weak, too, and it was a great pity when the Peds drew 500 spectators. The unexpected success of the Naps, also, hurt the outlaws.

As a matter of fact, the Federal League must spend lots of money to win in its battle. The Chicago park will not hold more than 2,000 fans. At the rate of salary promised Joe Tinker, the league will blow up in a month. Then, too, the ordinary players not receiving fancy salaries are sure to make a howl for raises. This, in addition to the demand for new stands and parks, will prove a tremendous burden.

To have placed a competitor here capable of winning the fans from the Naps would cost a good deal. In eight cities it can readily be seen that the cost will be in the neighborhood of \$5,000,000. If the outlaws have this money in their coffers, they have a chance to succeed. If they haven't, they are doomed to failure.

By choosing Toronto instead of Cleveland they add several hundred

miles to their railroad jumps, making schedules all the more difficult.

Federal League Will Protect Its "Jumpers"

INDIANAPOLIS, Dec. 29.—"The Federal League will stand behind its players, and in any case where legal proceedings are taken money will be provided for their defense," says J. Edward Krause, a prominent backer of the local Federal League club. "We think that the reserve clause in players' contracts is invalid, and we also believe that we can obtain such a decision from the highest courts in the land."

Outlaws Are Seeking Ragon's Signature

OMAHA, Neb., Dec. 29.—That the Federal League is angling for Don Carlos Ragon, Dodger twirler, was Ragon's own statement today. "The Feds have offered me a two-year contract at a good salary," said Ragon. "It's a better offer than the Brooklyn club has made me, and I may accept."

MAY GIVE FITZ CHANCE. NEW CASTLE, Pa., Dec. 29.—If Bob Fitzsimmons will sign articles sent him by a Williamsport, Pa., boxing club, Bob Handley, of this city, will meet him in Williamsport sometime next month.

SPEAKING OF SPORTS

By LOUIS A. DOUGHER.

The Empty Ball Yard.

"Alas!" said the sorrowful pugilist. And there was a tear in his eye. Though Christmas may come as a blessing to some, it only compels me to sigh. I gaze on my desolate ball yard And hark to the birds as they wait. Deserted and lone is the park that I own, And nobody hands me his kite. I yearn for the old doubleheaders We had in the Summers gone by. How welcome to me would the Christmaside be If it fell on the Fourth of July.

Bombardier Wells is a marvelous sprinter. Now if he were only a hurdler—

It is positively foolish for Bob Fitzsimmons to think of climbing into a ring again. When a man reaches the age of fifty-one, as he has, the old sap is not in his bones. He can no longer do the things he thinks he can. His will is there, but not his mind and muscle and sinew. Jack London has explained this admirably in one of his short stories, narrating the experience of a ring veteran fighting his last fight, how he aims his would-be sleep punch only to have his muscles fail him. Fitzsimmons in his day could have cleaned up the whole present-day collection of "white hopes," half of them in one night. But now he is fifty-one years old. I shall be surprised if the New York authorities allow him to go on with his bout.

Have you decided which of those Yuletide presents you're going to send to somebody else for New Year?

Evidently George Chipulonis possesses the proper stuff of which champions are made. Until he put Frank Klaus to sleep a second time, I could not believe it possible. I have known Klaus and his manager, George Engle, for four years and, having seen the "Pittsburgh Bearcat" in action half a dozen times, I could not bring myself to believe that he would pass away so quickly. Last spring I saw him hammer Jimmy Gardner so hard that in the third round the former ring marvel quit. A little fat and wheezy, Klaus seemed still his old self, a little training being his only need. He is now done. Once you have felt the sleep punch, you are going. It is probable that Chip could defeat Klaus at any time now. There is this to be said for Frank Klaus. While he was boxing, he met everybody. He did not sit back and meditate, a la Willie Ritchie. He was in the boxing game for his living. He boxed. Naturally, as a result, he has salted away quite a sum of money and he knows enough to retire on it.

Chip, recognized now as the welterweight champion, is twenty-five years old and has been boxing since 1909. Even now there is much room for improvement in his technique. If he uses common sense and trains faithfully, he may continue to hold his title for several years. He is the only middleweight now in sight who has the right kick to his punches. What he lacks in cleverness he makes up in strength.

There is joy in the land because Garry Herrmann's deal for Joe Tinker was upheld. Herrmann is one of the shining lights of baseball. What they should now do in Cincinnati is release the whole bunch of stockholders. The fans of Redland will be far from wise if they continue to support a club so hand-led. If they do, they deserve no champions, no, not even first division teams.

The latest evidence of the sanity of Garry Herrmann is his announcement that he will allow players present at the meeting of the National Commission, January 5, when the demands of the Baseball Players' Fraternity will be considered. The public is interested in this matter and will not willingly accept secrecy.

Baseball is the national game. If it is to live and prosper, it must be above board in every way. This does not insinuate that it hasn't in the past, either for it most certainly has. But here is an imbroglio directly affecting the fans, the fans who pay the big salaries and erect the big cement and steel stands. They don't want any official announcement of what went on behind locked doors. They want to know the whole thing from beginning to end. If the players have reason on their side, let them win. If they have not, let them lose. But by all means let the fans in on the thing. And Garry says he will.

BEST SPORT PAGE IN WASHINGTON

This Will Be Popular Pastime Until Season Opens



MERITO ACOSTA IS STARRING IN CUBA

Manager Griffith Receives Word From Massager Concerning Midget Gardener.

NEW YORK, Dec. 29.—The Federal League is about to break into New York, and already the hero of the island, according to advice received today by Manager Griffith from Jose Massager, the Havana baseball expert.

After making the best showing of his life against the Brooklyn Superbas, the little fellow is now hitting for .38 in the Cuban League games and his fielding is marvelous. Acosta is growing rapidly and gaining strength every day. He is hitting for extra bases now, something he could not do last summer. He is hitting such pitchers as Parella and Mendez, two of the greatest twirlers on the island.

Jacinto Calvo has recovered the use of his throwing arm and is playing with the Almendares. He writes that he is content to go to California and play with Los Angeles. Acosta is boosting his compatriot, Acosta, and says that he will do his best to catch up with him in the big league.

"That kid will make somebody travel next summer for a job in the outfield," said Manager Griffith today when he read the letter from Havana. "He is going to be a great player some day."

Syracuse Again Asks For Intercollegiate

SYRACUSE, Dec. 29.—Graduate Manager Steadman, of the Syracuse University A. A., said today that another effort will be made this year to induce the Intercollegiate Association to hold the big college track games which are scheduled for May 23 and 24 at the local university stadium. The Salt City's candidacy for the meet has been turned down nearly every year since the stadium became a reality, but Steadman believes that this season the dates may be awarded to Syracuse.

Cy Seymour Climbs Into White Hope Class

NEW YORK, Dec. 29.—Long Larry McLean, the Giants erratic catcher, wasn't taking friends today that he could whip Jack Johnson. Instead he was nursing a bruised face, the result of a clash with Cy Seymour in a Harlem bar room. That he could whip Johnson has been McLean's boast for years.

Del Gainer Threatens To Quit Baseball

DETROIT, Dec. 29.—Del Gainer, Tiger first baseman, threatens to quit baseball for good. In a letter from his home at Elkins, W. Va., Gainer says that he is not at all sure that he will be back in the game next season, preferring to stay out of the game and go into business.

To Go for Record.

PITTSBURGH, Pa., Dec. 29.—Several Pittsburgh swimmers will be pitted against some of the best aquatic athletes in the East on January 18, when the middle Atlantic A. A. 100-yard back stroke championship is held as a feature of the annual indoor meet of the Pittsburgh Aquatic Club.

FEDERAL LEAGUE FOR METROPOLIS

Outlaw President Coming East to Seek Location in Old Park Formerly Used by Farrell's Yankees—Brooklyn Club Will Go Slow in Tinker Trouble.

NEW YORK, Dec. 29.—The Federal League is about to break into New York, and already the hero of the island, according to advice received today by Manager Griffith from Jose Massager, the Havana baseball expert.

The question of a location for the league is the principal setback to be expected. It is hard on those on the outside that the old park, which is available, a stand and bleachers will be needed, but that's all, the diamond being in perfect condition. The property is owned by the New York Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, and Frank Farrell's lease expired a year ago, when he transferred his club to the Polo Grounds.

Joe and Ed McMahon, who have been mentioned as possible managers in the Federal League here, denied today that they were considering the proposition.

Both are friendly with Frank Farrell and Johnny McGraw, and claim that friendship would keep them from jumping into the opposition. However, they admit that the outlaws have been looking with longing eyes on the metropolis, and will not let it escape them if they can find a suitable opening.

The Brooklyn club intends waiting a while before taking their troubles to court. Just before the major league season opens the matter will come to a head when the Superbas endeavor to sign Tinker to a contract. The former manager in Redland has yet to reply to a letter from President Elberts concerning his salary.

"If Tinker has really signed," says Vice President Edward J. McKeever, of the Brooklyn club, "he shows base ingratitude. We made him a fair salary offer in writing a week ago, which he is sure that he has signed a contract with the Federal League, we shall instruct our attorney, Bernard J. York, to apply to the Federal courts for a permanent injunction. Then the whole affair may be settled in three or four years."

BOB THAYER'S GOSSIP

"EVERY KNOCK IS A BOOST."

Has he signed? Has Joe Tinker really signed a Federal League contract? You will notice that he remains silent through all the excitement rocking organized baseball. Perhaps the reason is that he is waiting for a deal to come forth with a denial and the whole affair will blow over. I want to hear from Tinker himself before I credit the Federal Leaguers. They have been taking a lot for months and never doing anything.

What will happen? At any rate, if Tinker has signed and does attempt to play with the outlaws, the courts will have to decide the power of organized baseball over the players. There will be an end to this constant argument about the sacredness of contracts, before I credit the Federal Leaguers. They are useless, and others that they are strong as steel. It will be up to the courts to decide.

To invade Gotham. If the Federal Leaguers invade Gotham, they will be tempting Fate. It is practically impossible to overcome the strength of the National League in the metropolis. The American League has been fighting this condition for ten years without much success. If the outlaws go through with this move, they will be undertaking a heavy burden far heavier than any they now have.

Fear the invaders. Without attempting to bowl in any way, the combination presented by Brooks, Wilding, Doust and Dunlop, the Australian who will prepare to journey here for the Davis Cup, presents something greatly to be feared. The quartet which was beaten here is vastly different when Anthony Wilding is put in the line-up. McLaughlin, Williams and company will have all they are looking for to defend this year unless the dope goes far afield.

Syracuse induces. There is no reason why Syracuse University should not obtain the Intercollegiate field and track games. The Salt City stadium is one of the finest in the country. Accommodations are more easily obtained than in other cities, as the big bowl is within easy access from the city proper. In addition the Western colleges will save a night's journey. By all means give Syracuse a chance at the big games.

Quinnet an amateur. There has never been any question as to the amateur status of Francis Quinnet as far as this country is concerned. The line of talk reported to have come from England questioning the status of the national champion is about in keeping with the reported changes asked for in the tennis rules this year.

Great Britain is trying, apparently, to grease the ways for a clean-up in sports and a chance to sweep clean.

Costello's Stars Win From Vigilants' Team. Harry Costello's All-Star football team is today credited with winning the only game of the season from the Vigilants, the latter team going down by 6 to 7. The Vigilants were across the line for a touchdown in the first quarter, but failed to kick goal. This advantage was maintained until but five minutes were left to play, at which time Costello shot a forward pass to Carroll, who took the ball over for a touchdown. Costello kicked goal.

Cincinnati Club Will Keep Money for Tinker

CINCINNATI, Dec. 29.—No matter what happens to Joe Tinker, the Cincinnati club intends to keep the \$15,000 paid by Brooklyn for him. At any rate, that's what Garry Herrmann said today.

"We are through with the whole affair," says Garry, "and it is up to Brooklyn to sign up Tinker. We wash our hands of the case. Brooklyn must sign Tinker or get along for that \$15,000."

Many Schools Asked.

Stanford University's ninth annual intercollegiate track and field meet will be held April 2, 1914. Invitations have been sent to the principals of all the preparatory schools in California, Arizona, Nevada, Utah, Washington, Oregon, and Idaho to enter athletes in the largest intercollegiate track and field meet ever held on the Pacific Coast.

It's Always the Same

THARP'S BERKELEY RYE 812 F Street N. W.

French

424 9th St. N. W.

THREE TEAMS TO COMPETE IN RACE

Carroll Institute Runners May Spring Surprise in Championship Event.

Three teams have entered the South Atlantic Association's annual championship race which will be decided in Baltimore over the Walbrook Athletic Club seven-mile course New Year Day. The Carroll Institute five, of Washington; the Cross Country Club and the Milton University, both of Baltimore, will oppose each other. On general form it would appear that the teams are well matched, but the improvement shown by the Carroll Institute runners would tend to indicate that they may spring a surprise.

With Dan Healy, Mike Lynch, and Bobbie Williams in the going, the prospect for a winning team for Carroll Institute is bright. The Cross Country Club team will miss the services of Egan Geller, Henry Elphinstone, and others, who will be on the Milton University squad, and the winged chances, therefore, will be somewhat lessened. The university team has a good chance to be in the running, with Henry Elphinstone, Egan Geller, Joseph Geip, Milton K. Erdman, and Martin J. McDonough in line.

The competition for the individual title would seem to lie between Egan Geller, Johnny Edsall, Bobbie Williams, and Henry C. Elphinstone. It is a question of stamina, as the seven-mile course is a very trying one. Last year Johnny Gallagher, Georgetown University, made the excellent record of 54:32.5. Saturday, Elphinstone, in a practice romp, notated the course in 58 minutes, so that Gallagher's record will probably go when the race is won this year. The course, whether it rains or shines, will be in good condition, as it is so well drained.

Washington Colleges on Vremont Team Dates

BERLINGTON, Vt., Dec. 29.—The athletic council of the University of Vermont announced today the longest baseball schedule it has ever issued. Thirty-two games are provided for between March 25 and June 22. George Winters, the former Boston American League pitcher, now coaching Vermont, said that, with an abundance of promising veteran material on hand, the outlook for the coming season was very encouraging.

Nine games will be played on the spring training trip to North Carolina, Virginia, and Washington.

Zbyzsko Is Coming.

NEW YORK, Dec. 29.—Zbyzsko, Polish wrestler, has called promoters here that he will sail from Europe in time to compete in the wrestling tournament to be held at Madison Square Garden, January 14.

BIG REDUCTIONS

ON ENTIRE LINE OF Electrical Novelties Athletic Supplies Sporting Goods Fire Arms Roller Skates Boxing Gloves Hunting Clothes Flashlights Safety Razors

It's Always the Same

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French

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OLD LEAGUE WILL GUARD INTERESTS

John K. Tener Says His Organization Will Not Hesitate to Carry Grievances to United States Supreme Court for Settlement of Troubles Over Joe Tinker.

HARRISBURG, Pa., Dec. 29.—"The National League will protect its interests," says Governor Tener, president of the National League, upon being questioned concerning his action in the cases of Joe Tinker and Mordecai Brown, who are said to have signed with the Federal League. "I have every belief that our contracts are strong enough to hold in the Federal courts and we shall not hesitate to pursue our rights before the law."

Governor Tener is keeping in close touch with the situation, and, if necessary, is ready to go to New York at once to aid in clearing the mix-up. He is gratified to know that the Brooklyn club will take their case to the Federal court, going to the United States Supreme Court if necessary. The present form of contract in use in the National League was drafted by John Conway Toole, who was legal adviser to Thomas J. Lynch in the fight against Horace Fogel. It is believed to be strong enough for all purposes, but organized baseball men prefer to keep it out of court as long as possible, as an adverse decision will mean the end of baseball.

NO BLACKLISTING OF THE JUMPERS

CINCINNATI, Ohio, Dec. 29.—While no blacklisting, but any players who ignore organized baseball to the extent of jumping either contracts or reservations will remain forever outside the fence. They will never be employed again on the fields of organized ball. If they choose the Federal or any other league it will be with their eyes open, and they will have only themselves to blame if they are forced to accept minor league status for the rest of their careers. The \$15,000 check from the Brooklyn club rests in the hands of the Cincinnati club, the responsibility for signing Tinker resting with the Brooklyn club. Herrmann says he knows that Brown has not signed, and thinks Tinker too sensible to do so.

BINGLES AND BUNTS

By GRANTLAND RICE.

Never Again. The year I swore off drinking I never shall forget. To leave the glass behind me recalls the horror yet. For then, until I'd torn off The stuff I seldom drank; But after I had sworn off I earned it by the tank.

The year I swore off smoking—When I recall the scene—My nostrils beyond all healing Seem full of nicotine; Before, each day I never Smoked over three times then, But when I "quit forever" My limit went to ten.

The year I swore off poker—I still recall it well; "No more," swore I, "the joker. No more the Jack's spell. Before I'd played at random. But after I had "quit" I drove the limit down "the kit."

The moral of this little apt I guess you've tipped before I've found that I cannot afford to swear off any more.

King Cole announces that he intends to work for Chance this season. King is considerable pitcher, but nothing wonderful as an original prophet. They either work for Chance or they exceed the speed limit in moving swiftly to another spot.

"After all," questions an exchange, "is a manager a vital factor in a ball club's success? Isn't it due to the ability or inability of the players themselves?" There were at least one or two clubs with as good material as McGraw had last summer in the N. L. But they didn't win. And both Brooklyn and St. Louis had better material—by 25 per cent—than George Stallings. But Stallings beat both clubs out. Stallings had the poorest material in his circuit and finished fifth—which is one answer at least.

There was sufficient natural material on the Pirate line-up last season to have raised the well-known Dickens. But too much of it lacked ambition, and through no particular fault of Fred Clarke's a club that could have been a championship contender was content to pike along in the old groove without attempting to fight its way out.

We'll never forget the case of that Detroit club of 1905 and 1907. In 1906, under Bill Armour, it drifted along detached from the old Pep and finished about sixth. Next season, under Jennings, it suddenly woke up and almost without a change in the line-up breezed home to a pennant.

Here is some saccharine news for American League batmen—if Walter Johnson lasts as long as Eddie Plank or has the same stuff as Plank's agent that Eddie now carries, the Senatorial fusillade has only fifteen years to travel under the '31g Tent.